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the status of retailing as a factor of the economic fabric, showing the present organization as an outgrowth of earlier conditions and of moving forces. He sees three aspects of the retailing problem as it now presents itself to the American public, and analyzes the situation from these different viewpoints. They are: first, the problem of training prospective workers in this field properly to perform their duties; secondly, the determination of "the most economical routes through which the goods may be transferred from the producers to the consumers"; thirdly, securing fair practices in trading in order to protect the interest of the consumer.

In developing his theme the author uses a great mass of facts collected from various sources, and tries so to organize them as to arrive at the conditions which they represent, or the tendencies to which they point. Two chapters are devoted to consideration of the sales people and the problem concerning them. As a means of determining the best distributing route from the consumers' standpoint, the department store, the chain store, and the mail-order house are described and compared with the older and less direct systems of retailing. Price maintenance and inside prices form the center of the "fair practices" discussion.

The foregoing subjects of discussion, taken with the analysis of retail expenses, the study of location and rent, and the summary of general retail conditions and tendencies, all of which receive some attention, constitute a body of material which should be of use, not only for information concerning present retail conditions, but also as an assistance in the construction of a science of retail economics.

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*L'Évolution de l'économie nationale.* By PIERRE MASSLOW. Translated from the Russian by J. SHAPIRO. Paris: Giard et Brière, 1915. 8vo, pp. 330. Paper, Fr. 7.50; cloth, Fr. 8.50.

This work, described as an "introduction to sociology and political economy," attempts to analyze the fundamental factors and forces which cause and guide economic evolution. Part I deals with what the author calls "Economic Systems," the distinguishing characteristic of which is the method of utilizing land (chase, pastoral, nomadic agricultural, three field stages, etc.). Part II, called "Economic Organization," deals with the expansion of the market from local and sectional to a national and world-wide scale. Part III analyzes the applications of the productive energy of society, distinguishing the production of goods for consumption by the workers, the production of goods for consumption by the capitalists, and the production of new instruments of production; and considers the significance of this division of effort from the standpoint of economic progress.

The fundamental force which impels the passage from one economic system to another, which forces a continual widening of the market, and causes the technical changes which accompany these developments, both as a result and

as a cause, Masslow finds to be the pressure of population upon the land. This is supplemented in modern western nations by capitalism. Capitalism differs from the ancient systems of exploitation based on the ownership of land as a dynamic force, because the law of increasing returns which prevails in industry compels an ever-increasing investment of capital to meet competition. Capitalism arises first in foreign trade where the difference in productivity of different nations enables the capitalist to make a profit. It is extended to domestic trade when pressure of population enables the capitalist to purchase labor power below its value. But the author fails to explain why in some times and places pressure of population has failed to produce a great capitalistic development, and he ignores the influences which scarcity of labor in contrast with scarcity of natural resources has exerted upon technical development in new countries such as the United States.

Part III is an exposition of the thesis that a relative increase in consumption by the working class accelerates economic progress while a relative increase in consumption by the capitalist class hinders it, because the products consumed by the workers can be produced by machinery, and hence increased demand by the workers stimulates technical development, whereas the increased income of capitalists is expended largely for personal services and for luxuries, in the production of which machinery is unimportant.

The book is narrow in its point of view, being confined to the few factors in economic evolution which the author has chosen, and consequently gives little hint of the complexity of the problem with which it deals. The author's socialistic bias in some places renders his analysis naïve. He exhibits the exasperating tendency so prevalent among socialistic theorists of slipping lightly over the precise points on which explanation is most earnestly desired. On the whole, however, the work is an acute and suggestive analysis.

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*La Force motrice.* By G. OLPHE-GALLIARD. Paris: Giard et Brière, 1915. 8vo, pp. 310. Paper, Fr. 7. Cloth, Fr. 8.

This work analyzes the conditions which have led to the use of different forms of motive power in industry and transportation, the advantages and disadvantages of each, and their influence upon the size of the productive units and the geographical concentration or dispersion of industry. It touches very briefly upon the broader economic and social effects of the new forms of power. The work discusses animal power, water power, steam, compressed air, gas, and electricity, but over two-thirds of the space is devoted to electricity.

The principal thesis of the work is that the development of new forms of power has not been a fundamental cause of the new industrial régime, but that both the new industrial order and the new forms of power are the result of the extension of the market, and that development of new forms of power has simply reinforced the tendencies initiated by the extension of the market. The author points out that in some cases the different forms of power have remained